



Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
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IOWA TRUMPETER SWANS RECLAIMING HISTORICAL TERRITORY

In 1994, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources began an effort to restore the formerly native nesting trumpeter swans to the skies and wetlands of Iowa. The last historical nesting attempt occurred on the Twin Lakes Wildlife Area northwest of Belmond, Iowa in 1883.

“Our initial goal was to have 15 free flying wild pairs by 2003,” said Ron Andrews, coordinator of the trumpeter swan restoration program with the Iowa DNR. The first wild nest hatched in 1998 on the Jack and Maylu Kennedy farm pond near Epworth. “This pair was part of a free flying pair of swans that Jim Foreman of Epworth let us neck collar and he then allowed them to free fly.” Wild nesting trumpeter swans had thus not occurred in the Iowa for 115 years.

“We reached our initial goal in 2004 and raised our goal to 25 wild nesting pairs by 2006. We actually had at least 26 wild trumpeter swan nesting attempts in 2005 and it appears we will have nearly the same number in 2006,” Andrews said. During the past decade, several Iowa released trumpeter swans have nested in southern Minnesota and Wisconsin extending the nesting range in their respective states nearly 100 miles further south.

Three years ago, a pair of trumpeter swans unsuccessfully attempted to nest in north central Missouri. That same pair did successfully hatch 4 cygnets near Dawn, Mo., on Bud and Debbie Neptune’s pond in 2005. That successfully nesting pair marks the

first time in nearly 140 years since wild trumpeter swans had nested in Missouri. “They returned to the same pond this year but were unsuccessful in hatching any young. We are suspicious that high water may have flooded their nest site,” Andrews said.

“We were excited to learn that another Iowa trumpeter swan pair nested in near Savanna, Ill., and hatched two cygnets this summer,” Andrews said. Trumpeter Swans have not nested in the wild in Illinois since the 1840s making it more than 160 years since they occurred there. Interestingly enough, the 1840s, trumpeter swan nest occurred near Glenview, Ill., which is now a suburb of Chicago.

Iowa trumpeter swans continue to generate all kinds of excitement and make new modern records wherever they appear. This charismatic mega-fauna, and North America’s largest waterfowl, give us all great opportunity to “Trumpet the Cause” for many values of wetlands and wetland restoration in the Midwest.

One of the goals of The Trumpeter Swan Society is to have more swans migrate further south. “Because, the Iowa DNR currently has the largest captive trumpeter swan “reproduction engine” in place in the world, we are going to cooperate with the society on this effort,” Andrews said. With the approval of the Mississippi and Central Flyways and the states of Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas, the Iowa DNR will release about 50 trumpeter swans, or roughly half of its production, in these states.

“The goal is to see if we can entice more trumpeters to migrate further south and establish secure migratory flight patterns. All kinds of interest will occur when this new fauna begins flying the skies of the south. Iowa, indeed is a major player in bringing back trumpeters to the interior portion of the United States and in seeing historical records fall and be replaced with new ones,” Andrews said.

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ZEBRA MUSSELS FOUND IN EASTERN IOWA LAKE

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Lake Delhi, an on stream impoundment of the Maquoketa River, in Delaware County. Local residents recently contacted the DNR after discovering zebra mussels attached to concrete block they removed from the lake. Further investigation revealed additional mussels on rocks above and below the dam.

“The number and various sizes of zebra mussels that were found appear to indicate that there is a reproducing population in the lake,” said Kim Bogenschutz, the DNR’s aquatic nuisance species program coordinator.

Zebra mussels look like small, fingernail-sized clams. The D-shaped shells have alternating light and dark bands, and most are less than one inch long. Zebra mussels are filter feeders that can form dense clusters as they attach to hard underwater surfaces. In the case of large infestations, they may interfere with aquatic food chains, kill native mussels, clog water intakes, increase algae blooms, and cover beaches with dead shells. There is no getting rid of zebra mussels once they are in a lake or river.

Zebra mussels are native to the Caspian Sea region of Asia and were introduced into the Great Lakes in the 1980s from ballast water of oceangoing ships. They spread from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River and were first documented in the Mississippi River in Iowa in 1992. There were no reports of zebra mussels in interior waters until 2005 when two adults were found in Clear Lake and in 2006 when juvenile zebra mussels were reported from the same area in Clear Lake.

DNR biologists plan to continue monitoring Lake Delhi to determine the distribution of zebra mussels in the lake and in the Maquoketa River below the dam.

One thing is certain, the sighting of zebra mussels in Lake Delhi highlights the spread of invasive species in Iowa water, she said.

“The zebra mussels in Lake Delhi probably arrived on or in a boat that had picked up the mussels in an infested water body,” said Bogenschutz.

Young zebra mussels are microscopic and can be unintentionally transported with water in live wells or bait buckets. Adult zebra mussels can attach to boats, trailers, and aquatic vegetation. If boaters come from an infested water body, they can unintentionally transport zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, or other aquatic invasive species if they do not take the proper precautions to prevent their spread.

Bogenschutz emphasized that anglers and boaters can help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by following the steps outlined below.

- Inspect your boat, trailer, and equipment and remove visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, other animals, and mud before leaving a water access.
- Drain water from bait buckets, live well, bilge, transom, and motor before leaving a water access.
- Dispose of unwanted live bait and worms in the trash. Never release plants, fish, or animals into a water body unless they came out of that water body.
- Spray/wash your boat, trailer, and equipment with high pressure or hot water before going to other waters, OR
- Dry everything for at least five days before going to other waters.

The DNR will work with local units of government and the lake association to increase public awareness efforts to control the further spread of zebra mussels. The DNR is also requesting the help of anglers, boaters, and homeowners in the search for

zebra mussels in Lake Delhi. If you see a zebra mussel, please note its location and contact Bryan Hayes, the local fisheries management biologist, at 563-927-3276.

For more information, contact Bogenschutz at 515-432-2823.

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FISHING REGULATIONS TO BE RELAXED AT HENDRICKSON MARSH

BOONE - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will relax some of the fishing regulations at Hendrickson Marsh, in Story County, beginning August 1. This will allow anglers to harvest fish before a planned winter draining of the marsh to allow vegetation to grow and work to be completed on the outlet structure. Water levels in both lakes will remain normal until after the waterfowl season.

Anglers will be allowed to use an unlimited number of hooks and lines to harvest any size or number of fish in the marsh. Anglers must still have a fishing license, remain in sight of all lines, and follow all other fishing regulations. Liberalized fishing regulations for these two lakes will remain effect until November 30.

Hendrickson Marsh is a waterfowl management area that in recent years has experienced an invasion of non-game fish species. These fish, particularly common carp, root around and help destroy beneficial marsh vegetation.

For more information contact Rick Trine, wildlife biologist at 641-752-3521 or Dick McWilliams, fisheries biologist at 515-432-2823.

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FAMILY FISHING

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

The evening drizzle was turning to rain, but Rachael Ewald wanted one more bluegill. She and the other kids fishing along the pond in Kent Park had caught a few 'throwbacks.' Now, though, the call went out from fishing session leader Brad Friedhof for a couple fish to fillet. As the rain got heavier, Rachael rose to the occasion, pulling in one more as the small fishing party headed toward dry ground.

Inside the Johnson County Conservation Department education center, the dozen kids, parents and grandparents crowded the kitchen area counter for the next installment

of their 'Catch It, Clean It, Cook It' session with Friedhof, the Department's naturalist. With a few short, steady strokes, he separated the mini-fillets from the two bluegills, showing the small crowd how to come up with dinner at the end of their fishing day.

On this sticky, summer evening, that fishing day began with basic fishing clinic instruction. "Start out with six or eight pound test line," urged Friedhof. "The biggest problem is often that the line is so thick the fish can see it. Then, there's the big hook. A small hook catches all types of fish. It gets real boring with that big hook, waiting for that big fish to *maybe* bite." He also tried to steer parents away from the little 'kiddie' poles; settling instead for a basic (five to six foot or so) pole and sturdy closed face reel and a small piece of worm. With a small plastic tackle kit, he showed them that they could be ready for almost anything. "Once you get past that, you can buy all the toys like I do; the open faced rods, the different lures," admitted Friedhof.

From there, though, it was down to the ol' fishing hole. It took all of five seconds for the first bobber to be pulled under. Reeled in, it had a small bluegill on board. In between the fish biting, the lines tangling and the light rain falling, the lesson continued. A 15-inch largemouth swirled in the water next to a bobber; prompting a couple 'look at that!' squeals. The fishing clan heard about the bass being attracted near the shore by the little bluegills, which were lured in by the insects hatching, flying and dropping out of the tall grass at water's edge. "The water and vegetation have that pyramid effect," Friedhof noted, explaining why the grass was growing right up to water's edge.

Rachel's brother Jordan had a little trouble clearing the tall grass. They learned, though, that it was there to promote insect growth. Jordan eventually hooked three or four of the hungry bluegills. "It was fun just pulling them out," he admitted. Down the line, Kara and Connor Schueler and Evan Flitz, all of Coralville, tried their luck.

And he was at the front of the class for the cleaning demo. With just a couple ounces of meat from the rain-shortened expedition, they would forego the actual 'Cook It' segment, but Friedhof talked them through proper preparation and the best fish prospects for eating. "It's like a supplemental food source; the fish you catch," explains Friedhof. "We want to let people know you can eat the fish right out of the streams and lakes here in Iowa."

The conservation department here, and a host of county, state and private conservation organizations get the word out each year. A couple days after the family session, Friedhof held a fly fishing demonstration. Come winter, there will be ice fishing. At the sessions, he fields questions about grass carp in ponds, the merits of big catfish versus little ones (for eating) and anything else that involves squirming scales or whiskers.

They are a great way for that once-upon-a-time angler to get familiar with the sport again, even though they are familiar with the basics. "A lot don't know how to get to the next step; maybe where in a lake they should fish for a particular species," said Friedhof. "Things have maybe changed since they learned; the way bass are used to

manage bluegill populations now. Once you explain it to them, they're like, 'oh, now I understand.' It takes away some of the mystery."

And when you're juggling a tight schedule, a couple impatient kids, sharp hooks and difficulty tying knots, it's nice to have some of the answers.

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[Hold this story until July 27]

TROUT FISHING WITHOUT THE CROWDS

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Fish in a crowd...or get lost? You can do both in Iowa's trout country. Swap stories with a half dozen friends or strangers while you wait for the stocking truck to pull alongside the stream. Or feel like the last angler on Earth as you fight over-your-head native grasses for a glimpse of a trophy brown trout in a remote riffle.

About 30,000 Iowans pay the 'trout fee' each year. On some days, it seems like half of them are elbowing you at your favorite stream. "Late every summer, we see streams getting more use," notes Dave Marolf, manager of the Department of Natural Resources trout hatchery near Manchester. "Summer ball seasons are over. Families want to squeeze in vacation before school starts. Trout streams are popular places."

Some more than others. For every Fountain Springs, with dozens of anglers on the mornings of announced stockings, there is a Little Turkey Creek five miles away, with just four people on it, the day of an unannounced stocking. And two of them were *leaving*. "I've had good luck here before. It's not crowded," offered Karl Showergerat of West Des Moines. He and a family friend had picked up two trout in a couple hours of fishing before a surprise midweek stop.

"We stock this place twice a month with catchable brown trout," said hatchery technician Randy Mack, picking his way down a narrow path to one of the Little Turkey pools. "The access isn't so good. There are more weeds and not as many mowed paths. The scenery is beautiful, though, and you get away from all the people."

There are also more trout (per angler) in those unannounced spots. *Lots* more. "Last year, in our 10 announced streams, we stocked 12.2 trout per angler seen. In the unannounced areas, we stocked 211," stresses Marolf. "That's the beauty of the unannounced program. You are going to show up and there will be fish to catch. You just won't find the crowd." That is something the three trout rearing stations stress, heading into late summer.

Location plays a big part in the ‘where to fish’ decision. Several ultra-busy streams; Bailey’s Ford, Fountain Springs, Richmond Springs and Swiss Valley Park, are on the southern edge of the nine northeast Iowa counties stocked with trout. Most--or all--are within an hour’s drive of urban centers like Waterloo, Dubuque and Cedar Rapids. Iowa City and Davenport are just a few more minutes down the road. Each stream gets plenty of local anglers, too. Simply put, most trout anglers seem happy with the shortest drive.

Access is another selling point. I talked with a woman in her 60s, near the upper end of Fountain Springs. With a cane beside her and a grandson to corral, she wanted a fairly easy walk in and walk out. Most of the pools there are just a few yards from the road.

The big draw, though, is a stream’s slot on the stocking schedule. When Mack stocked Fountain Springs on a scheduled day, there were 40 people waiting. Three days prior, just *one* person was there, during an unannounced stocking. With a season long stocking schedule now offered, anglers can make their fishing plans in February if they wish. That’s been an evolution. “We used to leave the hatchery with a stocking truck and a caravan following it,” recalls Marolf. “In the mid 70s, we set up a phone line with the daily schedule. However, it was constantly busy, so we went to a weekly phone schedule and that worked well. Now--through the mail or the DNR website--we have the season long calendar, too.”

Still, a truck full of trout picks up a little tailgate traffic, as it rolls through town, even on the way to an unannounced stop. “Once in awhile, I drive around a town and come in from another road,” chuckled Mack, as we approached Colesburg on the way to the Little Turkey. Don’t get the idea hatchery workers are trying to avoid you. Drivers carry extra stocking schedules and trout guides. They know many of the regulars by name and hometown. Mack offers suggestions for what type of lure or bait to use in a particular pool or under different stream conditions.

They don’t mind slipping in a big brood fish, either. Laughing and jockeying for position, teen anglers Emily Faust of Colesburg and Kristy Lueken of Edgewood turned trout fishing into a full contact sport when a 2-plus pound trout wriggled out of the bucket at their feet. Rocco Wagner, of Iowa City, watched from the next pool. “It’s a little too hectic up there, where they’re chasing that big one,” he smiled. Not too hectic, though, for him to pull in four trout in 15 minutes.

The trout crews *would* like to expand your horizons, though, pointing you toward some of those lesser-used streams. Years ago, I fished Sny-Magill with my girls. We didn’t get far from the parking lot, though, because of the heavy vegetation. “We mow miles of trails there now,” offers Big Spring (near Elkader) hatchery manager Gary Siegwarth. “There are some really nice holes you can reach.” Several other streams have improved conditions; ranging from mowed trails to handicapped access to better in-stream habitat.

Still, it's hard to change habits. We tend to go where we are confident, whether it's a favorite fishing hole, turkey woods or bowling alley. Try a new trout stream this summer, though and you may decide to disappear for a few days.

Sidebar: Best Bets, Off the Beaten Path

All stocked streams are found in the Iowa Trout Guide, available from DNR offices and many sporting goods outlets. You can call 563-927-5736 for a weekly schedule or download the season calendar (www.iowadnr.com), *however*; you might want to try a couple of these secluded, lightly fished hot spots.

Little Turkey, Delaware Co. Mowed paths through head high grass; several nice pools.

Grannis, Fayette Co. Lots of recent trail work; tremendous habitat, water quality

Otter/Glover, Fayette Co. Little pressure, stocked in cooler months

Sny-Magill, Clayton Co. miles of access, mowed trails, lot of pools easier to reach now

Pine, Winneshiek Co. Hardly any pressure. Trophy brown and brook trout

West Canoe, Winneshiek Co. Stocked twice a month. Decent pools; Permission needed on much of it, though.

Paint, Allamakee Co. Tremendous trout population, very little pressure. Handicapped access at Kolesrud Park.

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IOWA FISHING REPORT

For the week of July 25, 2006

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For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

Southeast

Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19: The water temperature at Lock and Dam 16 (Muscatine) is 81 degrees and the river pool stage for Pool 16 is 11.30 feet. Water levels are expected to stay steady over the next several days.

With the recent warm weather, warm water temperature, and lower summer water levels fishing has been slow on **Pools 16 to 19** of the Mississippi River. Walleye anglers are picking up a few walleyes on **Pool 16** near Credit Island, outside Sunset Marina, and near the Interstate 280 Bridge on the Iowa side. Try fishing walleyes around the wing dams and rock piles with jigs tipped with leeches or minnows, and crankbaits. Channel catfishing has slowed but anglers are catching a few catfish on **Pools 16 to 19** on worms, leeches,

crushed minnows, dip-baits, shrimp and dead shad. Channel catfish can be found around drift piles, in the backwaters, and the mouths of tributary rivers and streams. Flathead catfishing has been fair to slow in the deeper holes throughout the Mississippi River, in the tail water areas and below the emergency spillways of the navigation dams. Fishing for both channel and flathead catfish has been best in the evening, night, and early morning. Fishing has been fair for largemouth bass and bluegills in accessible backwaters on artificial baits and live bait rigs. Try the backwaters of Credit Island and Sunset Marina, in **Pool 16**, Big Timber Area, in **Pool 17**, Huron Island, in **Pool 18**, and Lake Odessa, in **Pools 17/18**, for bluegill and bass.

Lake Darling (Washington): Water temperatures dropped to 80 degrees over the weekend. Catfish are biting on chicken liver before 8 a.m. After the sun gets up and on the water the catfish stop biting, except for the little ones.

Lake Geode (Henry): Fishing has been slow with a few anglers catching some nice fish in the early morning. Most of the anglers are leaving the lake well before noon. Catfish have been working the flats and bays in the early hours and look for the bluegills and bass to be in the water willow bays bordering the deepwater drop-offs.

Lake Belva Deer (Keokuk): Catfishing in the morning has been good along the rocky shorelines before the sun gets up. Bluegill fishing is fair to good as long as you are there before the sun is. Anglers have been catching bluegills over the deepwater areas in the top two or three feet of water.

Lake Odessa (Louisa): Anglers are catching some nice catfish on shad and stink baits. Wildlife has the inlet and outlet structures open to create a flow through condition to keep the oxygen levels up. Don't over look the inlet structure for a place to catch catfish.

Lake Hawthorn (Mahaska): Channel catfish are being caught in the evenings on chicken liver and night crawlers.

Lake Sugema (Van Buren): Largemouth bass are hitting on a wide variety of lures. Good numbers have been caught in the 13 to 16-inch range. Bluegills are being caught in 5 feet of water on the edge of the weed line using ice fishing jigs tipped with wax worms. A few crappies are being picked up in 12 feet of water using minnows. Anglers are catching a handful of channel catfish, but the fish they see are in the 8 to 15-pound range. A few muskies are starting to be caught on the lake. These fish were stocked just this spring and are only 12 to 14 inches.

Lake Wapello (Davis): A few bluegills are being caught drifting with night crawlers. Anglers are doing quite well using stink bait for bullheads and channel catfish. Largemouth bass have been hitting well on spinners and crankbaits.

Lake Keomah (Mahaska): A few largemouth bass have been caught on a variety of lures early in the morning or late in the evening. A few crappies are being caught in the deeper parts of the lake.

Lake Miami (Monroe): Channel catfish are being caught mainly on chicken liver. Crappies have been hitting on small jigs tipped with wax worms. Largemouth bass are hitting quite well in the mornings on large jigs and crankbaits.

Lake Rathbun (Appanoose): Walleye fishing has been slow, but some have been caught using leeches on worm harnesses. As the water warms, the walleye should start

biting more on crankbaits. Fishing for channel catfish in the evenings has been good using a variety of baits including chicken liver, stink bait, leeches, worms, and cut bait. Catfish anglers have been focusing on the flats and the Honey Creek area. A few crappies are being caught in the deepest parts of the lake. White bass are still hitting on minnows and small spinners fished near schools of shad as they break the surface.

Lake Macbride (Johnson): Some largemouth and spotted bass can be caught around the shallow cover or deeper structure. Bluegills are plentiful and biting on worms around rocks, wood or docks.

Pleasant Creek (Linn): Largemouth bass are being caught around the dam and rock jetties. Plastic worms and live baits (bluegills/crayfish) have been working best. Remember the 18-inch minimum size limit. Suspended bluegills are being picked up on night crawlers. A few nice channel catfish are being caught on night crawlers as well.

Kent Lake (Johnson): Bluegills can be picked up on small worms. Try fishing around structure or suspended off the bottom. Channel catfish are also being picked up on night crawlers and stink bait, with evening being the best time to try.

Hannen Lake (Benton): Channel catfish are biting here on stink bait. Rocky areas should produce best, especially towards dark. Smaller largemouth bass are consistently being caught on a number of different lures.

Otter Creek (Tama): Anglers looking for lots of action should fish here for yellow bass. These scrappy, tasty fish are marginal in size but numbers will make up for it. Channel catfish are also picking up and can be caught on night crawlers and livers.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

Northeast

Mississippi River 9 to 15: Water levels on the Mississippi River are at low summer levels and projected to remain low. Care should be taken when navigating over wing dams and shallow areas as many logs and stumps are being exposed or are just under the surface. The entrances to many backwaters and sloughs are getting too shallow to boat. Water clarity is good and main channel water temperature has fallen slightly to the low 80s. River stages are 7.9 feet at Lansing, 12.6 feet at Lynxville, Wis., 4.1 feet at Guttenberg, 7.3 feet at Dubuque, and 4.0 feet at Bellevue. Fishing continues to be good, but it has slowed down some with the continued hot temperatures. With the river low, try to focus on areas with current as the current offers better oxygen levels to fish. The tips of wing dams are good spots to fish for many species right now from walleye to bass to bluegills or even catfish.

Bluegills are biting in **Pools 9 to 15** in areas with current such as wing dams and daylight markers. The *pocket* areas near the dams at Lynxville (**Lock and Dam 9**) and Guttenberg (**Lock and Dam 10**) have been good locations for bluegill. In addition, the wing dam areas near the shore and the spillway areas of the locks and dams have been productive. Most anglers are using a piece of night crawler floated under a bobber.

White bass are schooled up now and action can be very fast in **Pools 9 to 15**. Watch for schools feeding on minnows. If you see areas where minnows are continuously being chased, try to maintain some distance away from the melee to avoid spooking the white bass. Any lure that has some flash, such as a spoon or spinner bait, will work. Anglers are also reporting success using white jigs, spinners or shad-colored

crank baits. Make long casts into the areas where the minnows have been breaking the water. White bass can be found anywhere throughout a pool, but areas close to **Lock and Dams 9 and 10**, exposed rocky wing dams, and the pocket below **Lock and Dam 12** near Bellevue are especially good.

Freshwater drum (sheephead) fishing is good to excellent in **Pools 9 to 15**. These fish are being caught in current areas such as the tail waters, tips of wing dams and along the main channel borders. Drum can be caught using a sliding egg sinker and a hook baited with worms or crayfish. If you plan to clean drum, store the freshly caught fish on ice until you fillet them. This will keep the meat firm. In addition, cut out the red meat from the rest of the fillet. If you take these two simple steps, drum are excellent to eat.

Walleye fishing has been fair to good in **Pools 9 to 15**. Anchor above the wing dams and cast crankbaits or jigs over the top of the dam and work it back to the boat. Three-ways with floaters or spinners tipped with a night crawler or leech are also effective.

Largemouth bass fishing has been good in **Pools 9 to 15** using a variety of baits and lures including shad and crawfish imitating crankbaits, spinner baits and soft plastics. Focus on areas with structure—look for areas with rock riprap or woody structure. You might also try spinner baits thrown along the weed edges for hungry bass. Many backwater lakes are very shallow and bass have moved out to the deeper sloughs and along the main channel border areas.

Smallmouth bass are being caught in very good numbers in **Pools 9 to 11**. Smallmouth are found in swift current areas with rock. These areas are generally associated with main channel habitats including bank stabilization rock, day markers or wing dams. Spinners and crankbaits are the lure of choice for this feisty fish, but crankbaits seem to catch the larger fish.

Fishing has been good for channel catfish on night crawlers and stink baits fished along the upper sides of snags in deeper water in **Pools 9 to 15**. Channel catfish can also be caught along rocky shorelines floating a night crawler under a bobber directly on top of the wing dams. Try Minnesota Slough (**Pool 9**) by New Albin, Harpers Slough (**Pool 10**) near Harpers Ferry or Cassville Slough (**Pool 11**) by Guttenberg.

Some flathead catfish are being taken in the tail waters at Lynxville (**Pool 10**) and Guttenberg (**Pool 11**). Anglers are using large jigs or live fish when fishing for flatheads.

Northern pike are looking for cooler water so try fishing at the mouths of cool water tributaries or near spring flows. Pike are usually caught on spinners, but when they get finicky, you may want to try a white twister tail fished slowly.

Many other fish species are being caught and will continue to provide excellent localized fishing including crappies, yellow bass, yellow perch, rock bass and flathead catfish. All these species are predaceous fish eaters and will hit on a variety of jigs and spinners.

Cedar River (Black Hawk): Channel catfish are hitting chicken liver and leeches fished in the riffle areas below the dams. Walleye fishing is good on jigs tipped with night crawlers or leeches fished around woody structure. Smallmouth bass are hitting worms fished next to downed trees.

Maquoketa River (Delaware): Fishing is good for channel catfish using chicken liver fished in deeper water around brush piles and outside bends. Walleye, smallmouth bass and largemouth bass were hitting jigs tipped with a night crawler.

Shell Rock River (Bremer and Butler): Anglers are catching walleyes on jigs tipped with a night crawler and on crayfish-colored crank baits.

Cedar (Mitchell and Floyd), **Turkey** (Howard, Fayette and Clayton), **Upper Iowa** (Winneshiek and Allamakee) and **Volga** (Fayette and Clayton) **rivers**: Water clarity is good to excellent. Walleye and smallmouth bass fishing is very good using dark-colored jigs tipped with a worm.

Wapsipinicon River (Buchanan): Fishing is good for smallmouth bass and walleye on jigs and crankbaits. Look for 14-inch channel catfish below Independence between Three Elms and the iron bridge. Water clarity is very good and flows are good, but low at this time.

Backbone Lake (Delaware): Largemouth bass fishing is good on plastic worms fished in the early morning and late evening hours.

Brinker Lake (Black Hawk): Crappie fishing is good in 12 feet of water next to structure using a minnow and a slip bobber. Look for fallen trees and sunken structure. Walleye fishing is good dragging a jig tipped with a leach along the bottom from shore. Channel catfish are biting on chicken liver and cut baits.

Casey Lake (Tama): Channel catfish are biting on chicken liver and stink baits. Bluegills are hitting small jigs tipped with a twister tail or wax worm fished along the rocks. Smaller, sub-legal largemouth bass are hitting top-water lures and spinner baits fished in the early morning or late evening hours.

George Wyth Lake (Black Hawk): Channel catfish are biting on stink baits and chicken liver.

Lake Hendricks (Howard): Crappie, largemouth bass and bluegill fishing is good using jigs tipped with a worm and poppers.

Lake Meyer (Winneshiek): Bluegill fishing is good on angle worms or a piece of night crawler fished under a bobber. A few largemouth bass and crappies are being caught on dark jigs.

Volga Lake (Fayette): Small crappies and bluegill are hitting tube jigs. Largemouth bass are being caught just under the water surface using dark jigs with a twister tail. Fishing for channel catfish is fair on night crawlers, cut baits and chicken liver fished next to rocky structure.

Trout fishing excellent and stream conditions are good to excellent. Trout fishing is often better during the early morning or late evening hours during the hot days of summer. Stocking information for specific streams can be found on the web by going through the DNR web site at www.iowadnr.com or directly to <http://www.iowadnr.com/fish/news/stockrep/groupstock.pdf>. Anglers may also call the recorded trout stocking information hotline at 563-927-5736.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

Northwest

Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Walleyes, largemouth bass and an occasional bluegill have been caught at the North Grade using

leeches suspended under a slip bobber. Surface baits have also been productive for largemouth bass. Bullhead fishing at the North Grade has been slow. Buffalo Run has produced a few nice largemouth bass on leeches. Walleye fishing overall has slowed, but a few fish still can be caught in deeper water using spinner rigs and leeches. A few walleye can be caught up on the north side of the lake jigging twisters tipped with a leech.

West Okoboji Lake (Dickinson): A few walleyes have been caught along the weed lines using leeches in the main lake basin. White bass have been biting at the trestle using small white twisters during the day, along with a few largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and walleye. An occasional smallmouth is being caught while trolling crankbaits. Bluegills have been biting in Haywards, Emerson and Echo bays using small jigs tipped with live bait, with a few perch also being caught in Brown's and Echo bays.

East Okoboji Lake (Dickinson): Freshwater drum and bullheads are biting at the Hwy. 9 Bridge.

Silver Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing has been slow but a few are being caught while trolling.

Willow Creek (Osceola): Surface baits have been productive for largemouth bass.

Lake Pahoja (Lyon): A few bluegills can be caught on ice fishing jigs tipped with wax worms. A few crappies can be caught on minnows.

Lost Island Lake (Clay-Palo Alto): Crappie can be caught using jigs or minnows.

Little Sioux River (Palo Alto): A few channel catfish have been biting in holes with brushy habitat. An occasional walleye can be caught in holes with rocky structures.

Brushy Creek (Webster): Water clarity is the best it has been all year. Many fish are moving to deeper water. Some nice bluegills and channel catfish have been caught. Try for catfish at sundown with chicken liver.

Black Hawk Lake (Sac): Fishing is excellent for channel catfish on liver, stink bait, night crawlers and crayfish. Fish into the wind, especially early morning and late evenings.

Storm Lake (Buena Vista): Fishing is excellent for channel catfish on night crawlers, leeches and crayfish.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo): Walleye fishing has been fair. Fish are being caught trolling crankbaits or using live bait around the reefs. Remember Clear Lake has a 14-inch minimum length limit. Channel catfish are hitting on night crawlers, stink bait and chicken liver. Boat anglers are doing better in deeper water around the rock reefs.

Beeds Lake (**Franklin**): Bluegill fishing is good using wax worms. Crappies are being caught trolling small jigs in 6 to 10 feet of water.

East Fork Des Moines River (**Kossuth**): Channel catfish are excellent using cut bait and worms near the snags.

Lake Smith (**Kossuth**): Channel catfish are hitting on chicken liver in the evenings.

Lake Cornelia (**Wright**): Channel catfish are good using chicken liver and night crawlers. Fish the catfish in the evenings, on the north shoreline for the best action. Bullheads are hitting on night crawlers fished on the bottom.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

Southwest

Don Williams (Boone): Bluegill fishing has been fair using night crawlers. Channel catfish are being caught on chicken liver.

Hickory Grove (Story): Bluegill fishing has been slow with worms. Channel catfish are being caught using night crawlers and other traditional baits. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair. Crappie fishing has been slow, with most fish caught in late evening.

Big Creek (Polk): Bluegill fishing has been good using jigs or worms/hooks with the better areas in deeper water offshore. Anglers reported catching walleye with jigs and minnows. Channel catfish fishing has been good.

Easter Lake (Polk): Bluegill fishing is slow using night crawlers and bobbers. Channel catfish fishing has been good at night with night crawlers, chicken liver and chubs.

Saylorville Lake (Polk): White bass fishing has been good with jigs and spinners. Channel catfish fishing has been good using a variety of baits.

Below Saylorville Dam (Polk): White bass/wiper fishing has been fair using jigs and/or minnows and channel catfish fishing has been good.

Rock Creek (Jasper): Crappies are slow on jigs and minnows in the deeper water. Channel catfish fishing is fair with chicken liver.

Red Rock (Marion): White bass fishing has been good and anglers report some success with crappie fishing. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using cut baits and liver.

Below Lake Red Rock (Marion): White bass fishing has been excellent with jigs in the tailwater area. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using cut baits and liver.

Roberts Creek (Marion): Crappie fishing has been slow to fair using jigs/minnows in deeper water. Channel catfish fishing has fair using a variety of baits.

Lake Ahquabi (Warren): Bluegill and redear sunfish fishing has been fair. Channel catfish fishing has been good. Largemouth bass fishing is slow, although some nicer fish are being caught.

Hooper Lake (Warren): Largemouth bass fishing is best along the rocky dam area with crankbaits. Channel catfish fishing has been good.

Contact: Dick McWilliams (515) 432-2823, Ext.108, for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Green Valley (Union): Some channel catfish are biting on night crawlers or liver. Largemouth bass can be caught from the cover in 5 to 8 feet of water.

Three Mile (Union): Channel catfish fishing is fair using night crawlers or liver. The largemouth bass fishing is good around the woody cover in 8 to 10 feet of water.

Three Fires (Taylor): Several 2-pound channel catfish are being caught using night crawlers or liver.

Contact: Gary Sobotka (641) 464-3108 for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Orient (Adair): Fishing is fair for 2 to 3-pound channel catfish using night crawlers and prepared baits in the evenings. Bluegills are fair using night crawlers with bobber and small jigs.

Greenfield (Adair): Bluegills are slow using jigs tipped with night crawlers fishing structure and drift fishing. Fish from 7 to 8 inches are common. Channel catfish are fair using liver.

Nodaway (Adair): Channel catfish are being caught on liver in shallow areas. Greenfield and Nodaway have low water levels. Shore anglers best fishing would be off the dam.

Meadow (Adair): Largemouth bass are being caught around brush piles. Bluegills are slow using night crawlers on sunken trees. Crappies are slow around sunken trees using minnows.

Morman Trail (Adair): Fishing is slow for bluegills on rocky shoreline along south side of lake. Channel catfish is fair using liver and night crawlers.

Littlefield (Audubon): Bluegill fishing is slow. A few are being caught drifting with night crawlers. Crappie fishing is slow drifting minnows. A few channel catfish are being caught using liver or cut bait.

Anita (Cass): The lake is still 5 feet low and has limited shoreline access. The south boat ramp can be used with a small (14 foot) boat. There is a good fish population and fishing should be good. Fishing for 12 to 15-inch largemouth bass has been good.

Manawa (Pottawattamie): Fishing for wipers is slow with a few being caught on east shore by outlet tube using white twister tails. Walleyes are slow drifting night crawlers and leeches close to rock shorelines. Channel catfish fishing is fair with shrimp or cut bait close to shore around rocks. Fish in the 2 to 8-pound range are common. Bluegill fishing is fair using night crawlers or wax worms on a bobber in canals and around the boat docks.

DeSoto Bend (Harrison): Crappie fishing is slow using jigs and minnows around deep structure. Channel catfish is fair in shallow areas using night crawlers or blood bait. Carp are being caught mostly on dough balls.

Prairie Rose (Shelby): Crappies are fair along rocky shorelines using jigs. Channel catfish fishing is fair on liver and prepared baits along rocky shorelines. Bluegills have slowed, but a few are being caught drifting jigs tipped with night crawlers.

Willow (Harrison): Crappie fishing is slow. A few are being caught using a minnow and bobber in 8 to 10 feet of water. Channel catfishing is slow; a few are being caught on prepared baits.

Farm Ponds: Fishing is fair for bluegills, using jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing is also good.

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